



Peace & Justice Update
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The countries for the Peace and Justice updates have been chosen as areas of focus at the Institute. The International Human Rights section is intended to focus on aspects of international law. For information on specific cases of human rights abuses, please visit www.hrw.org or www.amnesty.org. The Gender and Peace section highlights events in peace building and human rights that pertain to gender.

Source information: Information presented in this update is condensed from wire and newspaper reports from Lexis/Nexis and from electronic sites on the World Wide Web. Complete biographical information is unavailable from these services, but every attempt has been made to properly cite information and give credit to source materials. This update is intended for use by IPJ staff and associates for informational purposes only. As the material in this update is condensed, and does not directly quote the primary source, information from the update should not be quoted.

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UPDATE SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

AP	=	Associated Press (www.ap.org)
AFP	=	Agence France Presse (www.afp.com)
AllAfrica	=	AllAfrica Global Media (www.allAfrica.com)
BBC	=	British Broadcasting Corporation (http://news.bbc.co.uk)
BBC Monitoring	=	BBC Monitoring International Reports (www.monitor.bbc.co.uk/)
CDC News	=	Center for Disease Control News (www.thebody.com)
CNN	=	Cable News Network (www.cnn.com)
CPJ	=	Committee to Protect Journalists (www.cpj.org)
DPA	=	Deutsche Presse-Agentur (www.dpa.com)
HRW News	=	Human Rights Watch News (www.hrw.org)
IWPR	=	Institute for War and Peace Reporting (www.iwpr.net)
IRIN	=	Integrated Regional Information Network (www.irinnews.org) (UN Dept. of Humanitarian Affairs Information Network: (www.unog.ch))
NCN	=	New Congo Net (www.marekinc.com/NCN.html)
PANA	=	Pan African News Agency (www.panapress.com)
RSF	=	Reporters Sans Frontieres (www.rsf.org).
TASS	=	ITAR-TASS News Agency (www.itar-tass.com/english/)
UPI	=	United Press International (www.upi.com)
VOA	=	Voice of America (www.voanews.com)
WPS	=	What the Papers Say (www.wps.ru:8101)
Xinhua	=	Xinhua News Agency (www.xinhuanet.com/english/index.htm)

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

Massacre in Ndunda: The UN Mission in the DRC (MONUC) reported that a massacre occurred in the village of Ndunda, South Kivu Province, October 6. MONUC estimated that 16 people, mainly women and children, were killed during the incident. Witnesses told MONUC that a group of approximately 20 men, speaking Kirundi the national language of Burundi, entered the village and murdered the civilians with machetes and crude weapons. There were also reports that some of the assailants were wearing Burundian military uniforms during the attack. Based upon information provided by witnesses, MONUC focused its investigation on Forces for the Defense of Democracy (FDD), a Burundian rebel group which had been active in the South Kivu Province. Although MONUC's investigation has focused on FDD, MONUC is also examining the possibility of involvement from the Forces for National Liberation (FNL) another Burundian rebel group. Violence from foreign rebel groups contributed to the perpetuation of the DRC's civil war from 1998 to 2000. Despite the acceptance of the Lusaka Peace Accords in July 1999, violence continued to be prevalent throughout the country. (AllAfrica, October 13; New York Times, October 10, 2003)

ERITREA/ETHIOPIA

Border demarcation remains questionable: Spokeswoman for the UN peacekeeping force in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE), Gail Bindley Taylor Sainte stated that the future of border demarcation was the decision of the Ethiopia Eritrea Boundary Commission (EEBC) and the two disputing countries. The projected demarcation date was mid-October; however, sources from UNMEE stated that the prospect of beginning demarcation did not appear likely. In September, Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi wrote a letter to the UN expressing his dissatisfaction with the finalized border delineation. While Ethiopia was willing to allow demarcation to occur in the East, its government opposed efforts to complete demarcation in full. The government of Eritrea refused to allow partial demarcation of the border and declined to discuss the issue with Ethiopia until demarcation had been completed. The only mechanism available for direct talks between the two countries were the meetings of the Military Coordination Commission. The next meeting was scheduled for November 5. It was believed that resolving demarcation disputes would be the main priority at its next conference. Despite the delay in demarcation, UNMEE reported that the border between the two countries remained militarily stable. The EEBC, who delineated the border, received its mandate through the Algiers Agreement, which was signed by both Eritrea and Ethiopia in 2000. The Agreement officially ended the two-year war between the two states which resulted in the deaths of more than 77,000 people. (AllAfrica, October 13; BBC, October 13; IRIN, October 13; New York Times, October 9, 2003)

GENDER AND PEACE

First ladies hold inaugural dialogue: The First Ladies of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) inaugural dialogue was held in Putrajaya, Malaysia October 17. The dialogue, entitled "Women: Peace and Development," was organized by Malaysia's Women and Family Development Ministry. First Ladies who attended included Edith Lucie Bongo from Gabon, Zineb Yahya Jammeh from Gambia, Widad Babikir Omer from Sudan, Semra Sezer from Turkey, and Sehba Musharraf from Pakistan. Nane

Annan, wife of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, was invited to speak at the OIC Business Forum, another part of the event. The Malaysian Prime Minister's wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali chaired the dialogue. The dialogue included a wide range of topics from education, women's healthcare, and AIDS to women's involvement in society and peace negotiations. The OIC was established in 1969. (Bernama Malaysian National News Agency, October 10-12, 2003)

Woman receives Nobel Peace Prize: The Nobel committee announced that this year's recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize was Iranian human rights activist Shirin Ebadi. Ms. Ebadi was the first female judge in Iran prior to the 1979 Islamic Revolution. As a lawyer, she has worked to increase awareness and to promote the rights of women and children in Iranian society. Ms. Ebadi believed that human rights could advance within the framework of Islamic law and has dedicated her life to reform within her country. She was the first Muslim woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize and was only the third person of Islamic faith to be awarded the honor. Despite foreign support for the decision, the government of Iran, led by President Mohammad Khatami, has viewed the honor with skepticism. President Khatami stated, "The Nobel Peace Prize is not that important, the awards for Literature and Science are more important." Despite the government's negative perspective, many Iranians have rejoiced in the selection of Ms. Ebadi. Upon her return to Iran October 14, she was greeted at the airport by approximately 3,000 supporters. (BBC, October 10; New York Times, October 14, 2003)

GUATEMALA

Unidentified gunman kills senatorial candidate: Ismael Mancur, mayor of San Miguel Patapa, was shot and killed outside his hardware store while painting a sign for his senatorial campaign. Direct evidence of political motive behind Mancur's death has not been uncovered by the police. However, Mancur is one of 21 candidates and activists slain since the election season began. Opposition parties and human rights organizations linked the violence to the campaign efforts of former dictator Efraim Rios Montt. Rios Montt said he "didn't believe violence had increased" from past election years, but avoided questions about those behind the attacks. Observers feared that another election season plagued by violence would be a setback in Guatemala's struggle to recover from its political history. The country was in civil war from 1960-1996. (AP, October 11, 2003)

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS

Election in Azerbaijan not free and fair: Human Rights Watch stated that Azerbaijan's October presidential elections could not be considered free and fair because of widespread abuse and bias favoring government candidates. The government manipulated election procedures by banning local nongovernmental organizations from monitoring the vote. They also obstructed opposition rallies by closing down roads or by having extended work and school hours on election day. Police have beaten and arbitrarily detained hundreds of opposition activists. Azerbaijan has had a history of election fraud and abuse. (HRW, October 13, 2003)

Human rights abuses in Pakistan: Since Pervez Musharraf began ruling Pakistan four years ago, there have been serious human rights abuses. Military agencies tortured and harassed political opponents, critical journalists, and former government officials. Opposition legislators stated that they were beaten, harassed, and subjected to blackmail for opposing Musharraf's policies. The Musharraf government's policy of marginalizing opposition political groups had led to a rise in activity by extremist religious groups and an increase in sectarian killings. Musharraf made efforts to ensure that federal and provincial governments remain subordinate to the military, which were contested by Pakistan's parliamentary opposition. In the past, the Musharraf administration had only negotiated with the Muttahida Majlis-e-Ama, an alliance that had links with the Pakistan military. (HRW, October 10, 2003)

Amnesty International to address human rights situation in Uganda: Amnesty International's Secretary-General Irene Khan planned to highlight the human rights situation in Uganda during a trip to Africa. Prisoners in custody were subjected to torture and inhumane treatment on a widespread scale. Amnesty International received several reports regarding the death of many inmates as a result of these abuses. The organization was also concerned about the abduction of children by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), an opposition party fighting the Ugandan government. In the past 17 years, the LRA abducted more than 20,000 people, the majority of whom were children. More than 85 percent of the LRA force was made up of children. Amnesty International hoped to recommend to the Ugandan government that law enforcement officials be suspended from duty if they use torture or ill-treatment on prisoners. Also, the government should ensure that captured children were well-treated and not used for military operations, and that former child soldiers received help to promote psychological and physical recovery. (Amnesty International, October 14, 2003)

ISRAEL/PALESTINE

Israel orders expulsion of detainees: Fifteen candidates for expulsion were captured in the West Bank and held in a detention facility on the edge of the Gaza Strip. None of the detainees have been charged or tried, but are suspected of involvement in militant groups. They have been given 48 hours to appeal the decision of their expulsion to the Gaza Strip. A similar expulsion took place when three relatives of Palestinian suicide bombers were moved from the West Bank to Gaza last year. The expulsions were sanctioned by Israel's Supreme Court, but human rights groups said they ran contrary to international law. Israel said that the measure was taken to reduce the number of anti-Israeli attacks. News of the expulsion plan came shortly after Israel troops raided the Rafah refugee camp in Gaza. The troops were backed by 40 tanks and helicopter gunships in the second large-scale incursion in less than a week. (BBC, October 14, 2003)

Secret negotiations offer alternative peace plan: Prominent Israeli and Palestinian politicians, working outside of official channels for over two years, finalized a symbolic peace agreement called the Geneva Accord. The plan offered highly specific solutions and called for major compromise on sensitive issues, including plans for refugees and their descendants from the Arab-Israeli war of 1948 and control over Jerusalem's most contested holy site. Many of these sensitive issues were pushed to the side in the

“roadmap” peace plan, which emphasized an end to the intifada. Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and other politicians said that the Geneva Accord was not helpful. Israelis and Palestinians involved with the accord said that it was aimed at generating public interest and support. A ceremony and formal signing will take place in November in Geneva. (BBC, October 13, New York Times, October 14, 2003)

Blast kills three Americans in Gaza: A U.S. diplomatic convoy was hit by a roadside bomb or mine just inside Gaza October 15. Three American security staff members were killed and one wounded. Hamas and Islamic Jihad, two of the main Palestinian militant groups, said they were not involved. It was the second attack on an American vehicle in Gaza. The previous attack in June did not cause any deaths or serious injuries. President Bush blamed the attack on the failure of the Palestinian Authority and Yasser Arafat to create effective forces dedicated to fighting terror. Yasser Arafat strongly condemned the attack and set up a commission of inquiry. The blast came just hours after the U.S. vetoed a UN Security Council resolution, introduced by Arab states, to condemn the Israeli security fence. (BBC, New York Times, October 15, 2003)

KOREAN PENINSULA

U.S. considers “security assurance” offer to North Korea: U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell said the government was prepared to offer North Korea a “security assurance” if North Korea dismantled its nuclear weapons program. However, Powell said that the U.S. was not considering a treaty or non-aggression pact. Powell’s statements came at the same time as comments from Bush’s advisors that North Korea told the truth about having reprocessed 8,000 nuclear fuel rods into enough weapons-grade plutonium for several warheads. The advisors also said North Korea may have already produced one or two nuclear weapons in recent months. State Department intelligence analysts cautioned that there was still no absolute proof of North Korea’s nuclear weapons capabilities. South Korean Unification Minister Jeong Se-hyun urged North Korea to try to ease tensions in negotiations over its nuclear weapons program and emphasized the importance of holding a second round of multilateral talks. The first round of six-party talks held at the end of August 2003 involving North Korea, Russia, China, South Korea, Japan, and the U.S., ended with no agreement. The parties have been in negotiation over a date for the second round of talks. (The Australian, October 13; Korea Herald, New York Times, October 14, 2003)

KYRGYZSTAN

Kyrgyz Deputy Prime Minister decries water waste: Bazarbei Mambetov, Deputy Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan, complained of the excessive amount of water use in Central Asia. He pointed out that Israel and Jordan, which is populated by 11 million people, use only 3 billion cubic meters of water, whereas the water supply from the Amu Darya and Syr Darya rivers, the two main regional rivers in the Tajik and Kyrgyz mountains, is still not sufficient even though they provide 110 billion cubic meters a year. The Aral Sea, straddling Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, was severely reduced by water mismanagement. An estimated 50 percent of water was wasted by mismanagement since the collapse of the central planning of the Soviet Union. Desertification and a lack of clean potable water affected crops and led to a rise in health issues in Kyrgyzstan, as well as the other

Central Asian republics. Raya Kadyrova of the Foundation for Tolerance International in Kyrgyzstan said one of the main destabilizing factors in the region (along with drug and arms trafficking and terrorism) was water shortage. Antagonism over water issues flared at a UN-sponsored forum in Dushanbe, Tajikistan in August 2003. ([Agence France Presse](#), Augst 31; [M2 Presswire](#), September 5; [New York Times](#), October 12, 2003)

Another Islamic activist sentenced: Valilullo Satvaldyev, a 42-year-old member of the Hizb ut-Tahrir party, a banned Islamic party in Kyrgyzstan, was sentenced to three years in prison for distributing leaflets by the Aravon district court in the Osh region in southern Kyrgyzstan. The leaflets called for people to boycott celebrations of International Women's Day March 8, the Nowruz spring holiday (Muslim New Year) March 21, and Kyrgyzstan's Independence Day August 31. Satvaldyev recruited young people into the party, and a large stock of extremist literature was found during a search of his house. This sentencing in the Osh region follows the conviction of 24-year-old businessman Akzhol Karagulov October 1 for distributing leaflets in Bishkek. He was sentenced to two years in prison and fined \$100, a lighter sentence in view of his youth. The National Security Service estimated that there are approximately 2,000 members of the Hizb ut-Tahrir movement in Kyrgyzstan. ([BBC Monitoring](#), October 8; [Eurasia.net](#), October 2, 2003)

NEPAL

Violence resumes following short truce: More than 15 Maoist rebels and 12 police were killed in a raid on a police training center in KhasKusum, near the western town of Dang October 12. Several hundred rebels surrounded the training center and attacked with guns and bombs. The police reported that the rebels fled after failing to overrun the center. This incident came two days after a group of approximately 600 rebels attacked a police outpost in the neighboring district of Banke, where at least 50 rebels and 2 police were killed. The attack ended a nine-day cease-fire declared by the rebels for the Hindu festival of Dashain and was the deadliest battle since the Maoists ended a seven-month cease-fire in August. Nearly 8,000 people have been killed since the Maoist rebels' insurgency began in 1996. ([ABC Radio Australia](#), October 13; [BBC](#), October 11,13; [Reuters](#), October 13, 2003)

SOMALIA

Malnutrition risk in Sool area: The U.S. government's Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS) said that 11,170 households in the Sool Plateau were at risk for malnutrition. The seasonal rains fell short in the area. Better off-households were able to migrate, but poor households were left behind. There were four successive years of rain failure and an estimated 50 percent loss of livestock during that period. FEWS reported that malnutrition was likely to worsen as households diverted food expenditures for increasingly expensive water. Problems were complicated by the fact that the Sool area was claimed by both the self-declared republic of Somaliland and the self-declared autonomous region of Puntland. ([IRIN](#), October 10, 2003)

SUDAN

Disagreements continue over three Sudanese regions: Differences between the Sudanese government and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLA/M) concerning three regions of Sudan have been emerging at peace talks in Kenya. The future status of Southern Blue Nile, the Nuba Mountains, and Abyei were discussed. Regarding Southern Blue Nile and the Nuba Mountains, the SPLM/A demanded the right to self-determination. This meant that the two regions would hold referenda before the end of the six-year interim period to decide whether they would belong to northern or southern Sudan. The SPLM/A wanted these two areas to be "anchored" under their control, but given a large degree of autonomy. For Abyei, the SPLM/A stated that the region either be restored to the southern state of Bahr el Ghazal or a referendum be held in Abyei to decide whether it belonged to the north or south. The Sudanese government responded by insisting on keeping the three areas as part of northern Sudan while "accommodating" the SPLM/A by giving financial support to the regions to improve problems of underdevelopment and neglect. The aim of the peace talks was to end the 20-year civil war between the north and south of Sudan that has left more than 2 million dead and 4 million people displaced. (IRIN, October 13, 2003)

UGANDA

Hundreds of abducted children escape from rebels: News sources differ as to whether more than four hundred abductees, mostly children, were either rescued by the Ugandan army, released by the rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), or escaped from the LRA October 11. An army spokesman said that the children would be placed with organizations which rehabilitate abducted children and would be reunited with their families. Most of the children were abducted by the LRA from the northern district of Pader during a raid on the village of Pajule. Approximately eight civilians and 19 rebels were killed in the raid and a local official said 500 people had been abducted by the rebels and dozens were still missing. The Ugandan army chased the rebels for nearly 24 hours before the LRA abandoned the captives. More than 20,000 children have been abducted by the LRA since they began fighting the Ugandan government 17 years ago with the aim of replacing it with one based on the biblical Ten Commandments. (AFP, October 12; BBC, October 12; Deutsche Presse-Agentur, October 13, 2003)